

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1009

317 Lennox Avenue

East Towson, Baltimore County

1885-1900

Private

The single family dwelling at 317 Lennox Avenue was constructed between 1885 and 1900 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures.

This wood frame Queen Anne-style dwelling is two-and-a-half stories high, and two bays wide with a front-gable roof. A shed roof wood frame porch covers the full-width of the façade. The porch is supported with replacement square wood posts and balusters. There is one center interior parged brick chimney. The front gable roof contains one round-arched 2/2 double-hung wood sash window with a square-edged wood sill. The remaining windows are 2/2 double-hung wood sash with square-edged wood sills and are accompanied by wood louvered shutters. The entrance has a single-leaf, flush wood door with a transom, which is covered. A two-story wood frame addition on the rear elevation has a hipped roof and an exterior-end brick chimney. The house is covered with asbestos shingles, the foundation is solid parged concrete, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 1009

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Samuel Williams House

2. Location

street and number 317 Lennox Avenue not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Sally Ruth Hanks, Paula Louise Taylor

street and number 317 Lennox Avenue telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21286-5310

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 15155 folio 110

city, town Towson tax map 70A tax parcel 491 tax ID number 923505650

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 1009

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This wood frame Queen Anne-style dwelling faces south and is located at 317 Lennox Avenue in East Towson. It is two-and-a-half stories high, and two bays wide with a front-gable roof. A shed roof wood frame porch covers the full-width of the façade. The porch is supported with replacement square wood posts and balusters. There is one center interior parged brick chimney. The front gable roof contains one round-arched 2/2 double-hung wood sash window with a square-edged wood sill. The remaining windows are 2/2 double-hung wood sash with square-edged wood sills and are accompanied by wood louvered shutters. The entrance has a single-leaf, flush wood door with a transom, which is covered. A two-story wood frame addition on the rear elevation has a hipped roof and an exterior-end brick chimney. The house is covered with asbestos shingles, the foundation is solid parged concrete, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 1009

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1885 ca.-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1885-1900

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The house at 317 Lennox Avenue was constructed between 1885 and 1900 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 1009

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The dwelling is located at 317 Lennox Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 491 since its construction in the last quarter of the 19th century.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	K. Baynard, R. Weidlich, J. Bunting, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	November 5, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

East Towson: Planimetric Data



BA #: 1009
Name: House, 317 Lennox Avenue
East Towson
Baltimore County



Prepared by:
Baltimore County Office of Planning
401 Bosley Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
June, 2001

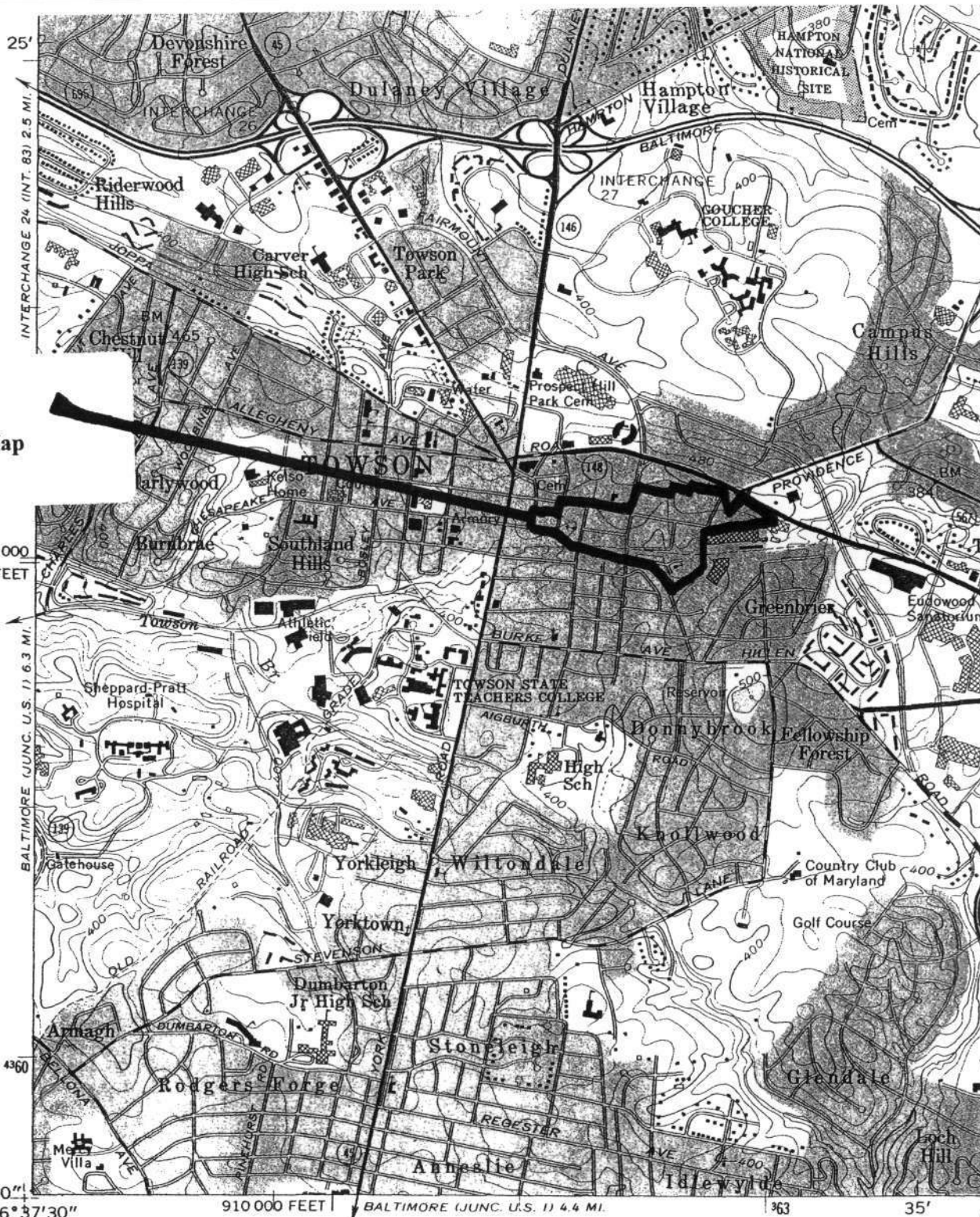


Scale
1 inch = 200 feet
1:2400
100 0 100 200 Feet

Legend

Paved Roads	Study Area Boundary	Hydrographic Features
Unpaved Roads	Buildings	Vegetation
Paved Parking / Driveways		

Data Sources:
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)
Coordinate System:
Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum
Elevations in Feet: NAVD88 Vertical Datum
Date of Data Capture: March 1996
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'



Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
 Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

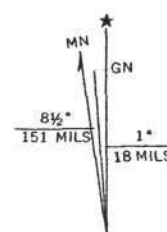
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
 taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
 landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
 aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not
 field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

(BALTIMORE WEST)
 5662' SW



BA- 1009

HOUSE, 317 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPO

SOUTHWEST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING NORTHEAST

1 of 3

TRACERIES, 10/2001



BA-1009

HOUSE, 317 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

SOUTHEAST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST

2 of 3

TRAILERIES, 10/2001



BA-1009

HOUSE, 317 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

NORTHWEST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST

3 of 3

TRALERIES, 10/2001

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

THE SAM WILLIAMS HOUSE

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 317 Lennox Ave.

second

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md.

VICINITY OF

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☒ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Sammuel S. Williams/ Sally Hanks Williams

Telephone #: 821-9409

STREET & NUMBER

317 Lennox Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

VICINITY OF

Baltimore Co.

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 828

Folio #: 382

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Ave

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

BA-1009 - 317 Lennox

c. 1915 - 1927

The two-story high by two bay wide gable end of this three-room-deep frame house faces the street. A shed-roofed porch enhances the front of the house.

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

317 Lennox Ave.

This simple frame house is three rooms deep and two stories high, with the gable end facing the street. A semi-closed shed-roofed porch is supported by turned posts which grace the gable facade. The front door to the left, is topped by a transom. The 2/2 sash window to the right is framed with a quirk ogee molding with a rolled edge. Two 2/2 windows light the second floor, and an attractive arched 2/2 window lights the attic. The house is covered with grey asbestos shingles over the original german siding.

A concrete block foundation supports the house, with a cellar under the rear portion. The exterior cellar entrance is centered at the rear gable end, next to a stove flue. Another stove flue serves the center and front rooms.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD**

☐ PREHISTORIC
☐ 1400-1499
☐ 1500-1599
☐ 1600-1699
☐ 1700-1799
☐ 1800-1899
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☐ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☐ EDUCATION
☐ ENGINEERING
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☐ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ THEATER
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES**BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This particular house has seen Three Generations of the William's family. The house was built by Samuel S. Williams the former Pastor of the African Union Methodist Church and descendant of Charles Williams who was a slave for General Charles Ridgely (his name appeared on the 1790 list of slaves). Samuel S. Williams died in 1949 conveying his property to Samuel Williams who later died in 1975, conveying the property to Mrs. Sally (Williams) Hanks in June of 1975. Mrs. Hanks has lived there since that time.

Land Records of Baltimore County Liber Folio 828:382

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marcus Pollock/coordinator Merry Stinson/architect 7/77

ORGANIZATION

Committee to Save E. Towson/ Towson Ymca

DATE

823-8870

STREET & NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Ave.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

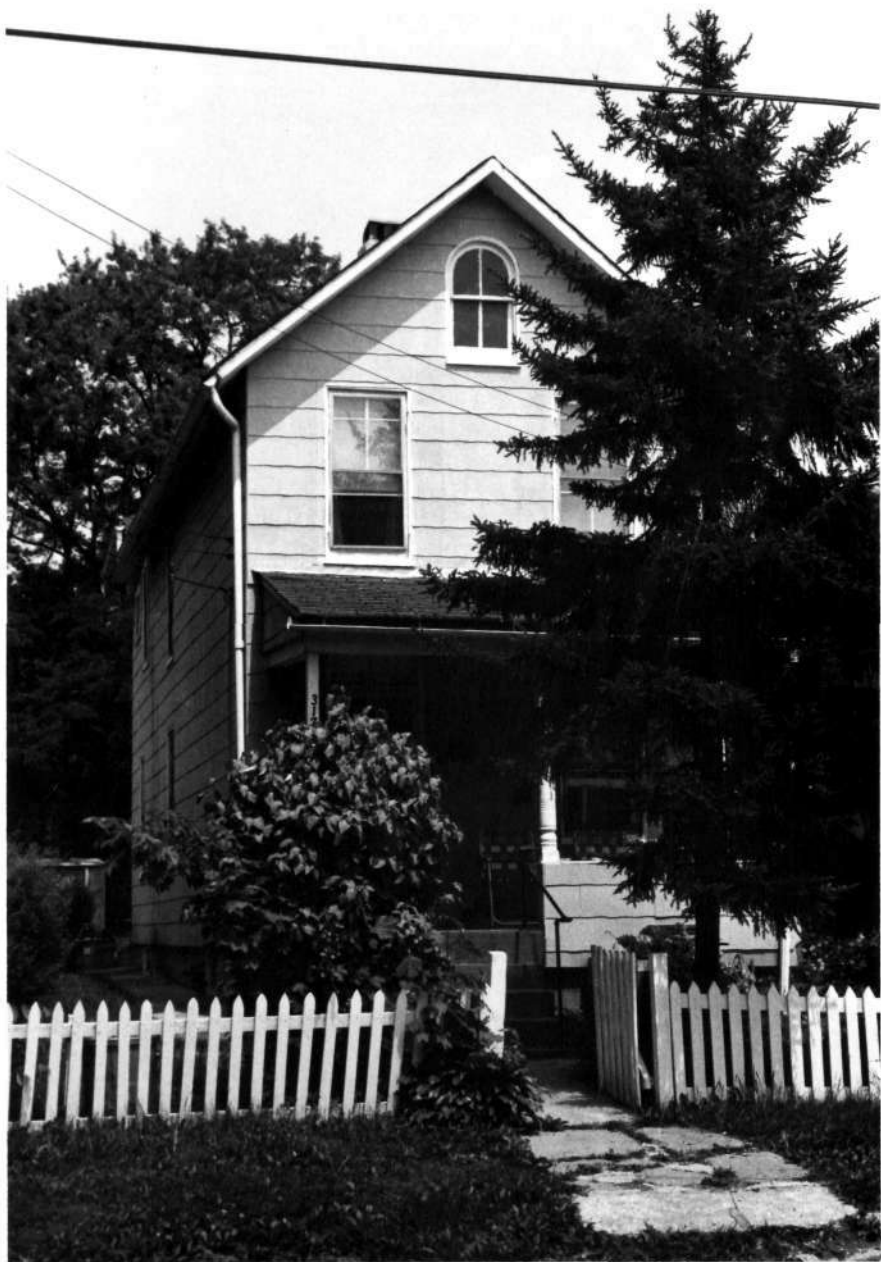
Towson Md. 21204

STATE

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



BA-1009
Sammuel Williams House
317 Lennox Ave.
Towson, Md.
South

Merry Stinson
1977